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card : 1 3 THE EMPTY WORLD
card : 2 39 UPSIDE-DOWN CITY
card : 3 77 THE MARCH HARE
card : 4 113 A[illegible]D TEA PARTY
card : 5 147 THE [illegible]ATTER OF UPSIDE-DOWN CITY

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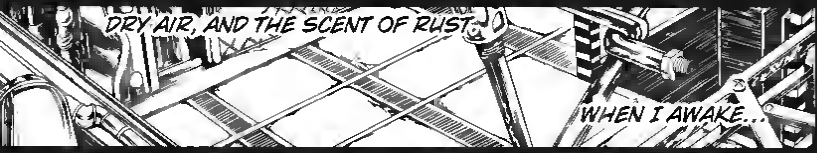
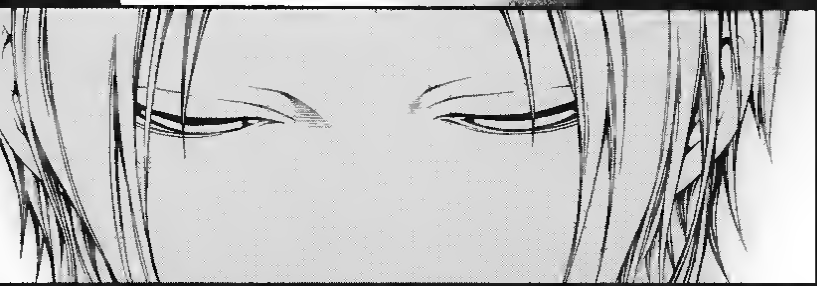
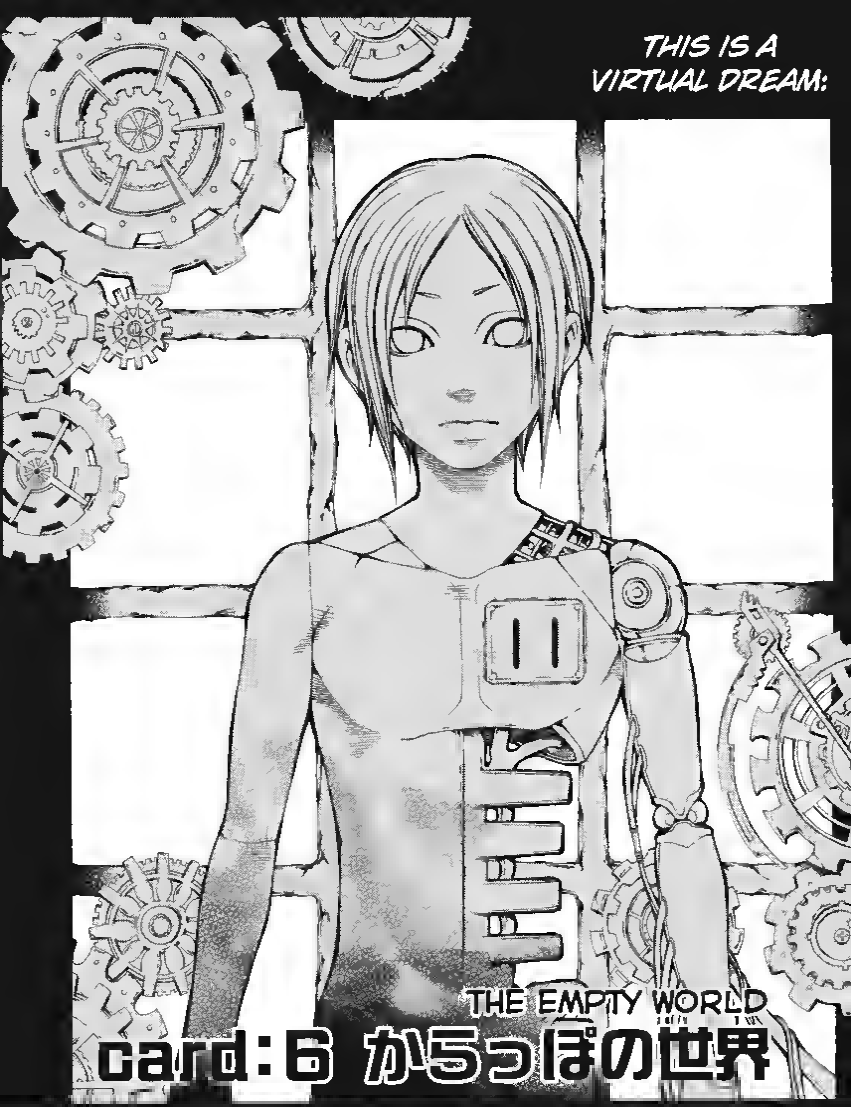
MY WORLD WAS EMPTY.



...DARK, MUTED EYES SMILE HAZILY WITHIN MY MEMORIES.



--EVEN THOUGH IT WAS EMPTY.



THE EMPTY WORLD

card:6 からっぽの世界

MY STORY.

...!
SPASM
KAL!
YOU'RE...
YOW! HIM, TOO?!
THUD
WHAT...
SPIN
SPIN
SWAY
WHAT...?
WHAT IS THIS?
SO LET ME--
GRAB
...AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M NOT HUMAN.
I'M A DOLL, BUILT TO BE A SCAPEGOAT FOR MY CONTRACT.

DON'T BOTHER...!
YOU'RE STILL SAYING THAT? DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION YOU'RE IN?!
WHAT REASON DO YOU HAVE TO REFUSE? DO YOU WANT TO DIE?!
CLENCH
DON'T NEED
SINK
STAND
...!
FINE.
THEN YOU CAN JUST LAY THERE AND DIE.

FWTT
WHEE!
NOD
SHEESH, THIS IS GETTING US NOWHERE
HIME TEAM, WOULD YOU MIND HANDLING THIS?
?!
UMMM
HEHEH! SURPRISED? I'M A DOLL, TOO.
--EGH ?
MY POWER'S CALLED "CHANGE." HIME'S BLOOD LETS ME CHANGE OUTFITS AND TAKE ON ONE OF FIVE SPECIALIZED ABILITIES...
UMM

A DOCTOR, HUH? I NEVER GET OVER HOW CONVENIENT THAT IS.
'KAY, LET ME SEE
WOW. THOSE'RE NASTY BURNS!
SATSUKI, GO AND FETCH SOME WATER!
ROLL
"CHANGE"
S H I T !
DON'T WORRY. I'M A PRO, AS LONG AS I'M USING THIS POWER
UH, ARE YOU LISTEN -ING?
HALL-WORD
HAZE
NOBODY TOLD ME..
MODE1-Doctor

WHEN DID SHE ...?!

TOYS?
AYE, SIR!

THE "PRESENCE" YOU PAINT SHOULD SEEMS TO BE LIMITED TO LIVING THINGS. THAT THING UP THERE IS A...
IT'S MASS -IVE
AND I DIDN'T CLOCK IT!

DOLLS?
WEIRD... I DIDN'T SENSE HIS PRESENCE.

THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
IF YOU SAY YOU DON'T NEED ME...
...THEN WHAT WAS I BUILT FOR ...?
I HAVE NO CLUE, FOOL.

TAK
-- THERE, I'M DONE
SWRK
QRK
IS THIS HOW YOU WANT THINGS BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU?
THANK YOU.
NO PROBLEM PUPPETS ARE MY AREA OF EXPERTISE.
CAPTAIN KAL, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
INCRE-DIBLE RESI-LIENCE
OKAY. WELL, GUESS HE'LL WAKE UP EVENT-UALLY.
WE'LL LEAVE HIM BE
THAT'S SO IRRES-PONSI-BLE.
HEY, THANKS FOR YOUR HELP. HOW'S THE RED DOG DOING?
'SUP.
HE'S OUUUT COLD
THE BURNS ARE BAD, BUT FOR HIM IT JUST MEANS THE PAIN SHOULD MAKE IT HARD TO SLEEP FOR A WHILE.
FOR THE RECORD?
EXPLOSION
HE MUST'VE BARELY FOUND COVER WHEN THE EXPLOSION HAPPENED. LOOKS LIKE THE ONLY BAD TRAUMA'S ON HIS BACK.

DO YOU SUPPOSE SOMETHING HAPPENED?
WHO KNOWS.
I'M DONE WITH MY REPORT, SO IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME
THAT SOUNDS SO DISTURBING
SHIZAMME YOU SHOULDN'T REALLY TALK LIKE THAT
OR HE COULD JUST KILL HIM
YEAHHH
HE COULD ALWAYS TRY AND PRETEND HE'S NOT PISSED
HMM
KAL KEEPS CONFUSING ME
IS IT THAT HARD TO ACCEPT THAT CAPTAIN KAL ENTERED INTO A CONTRACT?
?
WHY NOT?

FWSSS
フスー
APPARENTLY HE SAID THAT, RIGHT IN FRONT OF A TOY.
WHAT?
"IT'S A GOOD WAY TO KILL TIME."
...IT'S THE POLAR-OPPOSITE OF AAA'S IDEA OF KILLING TIME.
IT MADE ME WONDER JUST HOW UNINTEL-LIGENT HE IS
...GOTCHA. YOU JUST CAN'T IGNORE THAT, CAN YOU?
SMILE
HE SAID THAT, THEN SMILED, ALL COVERED IN BLOOD.

TAKE THIS WITH YOU. HE FORGOT IT.
I NEVER SAID I
YOU'RE GOING, AREN'T YOU?
OH REALLY, HUH?
KILL -ING TIME
THAT DOES SOUND LIKE HIM
COVERED IN BLOOD ?
RISKING LIFE KILLING TIME
SILENCE
SORRY SIR WE TRIED TO STOP HIM...
CRASH
RAGGHHHHH

SETTLE DOWN
WHILING!
YOU'RE AWAKE, ALREADY?!
YOU CAN GET UP FOR THAT MATTER? WHAT'RE YOU MADE OF?
I DON'T GET WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE! NOTHIN' MAKES SENSE!
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, HUH?!
YANK
DAK
YEEEEE
HEY, MISTY
SEE YA, MANGY.
YOU'RE IN BAD SHAPE, TECHNICALLY IT'D BE BEST IF YOU DIDN'T GET TOO WORKED-UP.
MANGY'S AWAKE NOW, SO WE'RE GOING OUT ON PATROL.
SO AM I!
AGHH?!
IS SHE... A TOY, TOO?
TAKE CARE.
PLEASE BE SURE TO INFORM SOMEONE WHERE YOU'RE GOING
SEE YOU LATER
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, VALLEY?
THE CRAPTER
...

HEY, PLEASE CALM DOWN! YOUR INJURIES—
IT'S NEWS TO ME!
SERP
DIDN'T I MENTION IT?
WHAT? THE MONKEY'S ONE TOO?
SPIN
SPIN
SPIN
FOR...
DOLLS...
HH H!
HH H!
THE FOUR OF US ARE DOLLS THAT AAA BUILT.
WELL, WHAT YOU'VE HEARD IS TRUE.
HE'S ONE, TOO...?

THE DRESS-UP DOLL, "CHANGE."
THE MARIONETTE, "PUPPET."
THE SACRIFICIAL DOLL, "SCAPEGOAT."
HAVEN'T YOU SEEN KAL AND THE OTHERS USE THEIR POWERS?
THOSE'RE ALL TRAITS VARIOUS DOLLS HAVE.
PLEASE STOP TELLING LIES
PUFF
NUT-CRACKER
THAT'S QUAINT
HIS TRAITS INCLUDE A VERY TOUGH BODY, AND A STRONG GRIP
BY THE WAY, I'M A BADASS SUPER-ALLOY ROBOT
HE'S A NUT-CRACKER.
HE'S A DOLL..?
FOR REAL?
SO I DON'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO FORM A CONTRACT.
WELL, I'M AN OLDER MODEL AN ANTIQUE DOLL, SO TO SPEAK.
KRAK

AS YOU CAN SEE, WE EVEN HAVE A SENSE OF SELF
WE FEEL PAIN, AND WE HAVE FIVE SENSES
THERE AREN'T AS MANY DOLLS AS THERE ARE MUDS OR WOODS, BUT WE'RE MORE INTELLIGENT THAN TINS
WE'RE JUST LIKE HUMANS, YOU KNOW?
THAT'S HOW GOOD AN INVENTOR AAA IS.
WE'LL CONTINUE TO RUN AS LONG AS OUR CORES AREN'T SMASHED

WHAT'RE YOU DOLLS DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
...DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE SPIES OR SOME-THING.
NO, WE'RE NOT.
WE'RE THE ONES WHO FORMED CARDS
GWAHH
SPIES?!
WE CAN'T GET BEHIND AAA'S IDEAS, OR THE THINGS HE DOES.
SHHF
BUT EVEN IF WE FIND IT, IT'S OBVIOUS WE'RE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO TACKLE IT
SO YEAH, OUR OBJEC-TIVE IS ALICE...
SORRY.
...
WILL YOU BE OUR TRUMP CARD? OUR JOKER?
YOUR PRESENCE HERE IS VERY REASSU-RING.

I'M NOT ONE OF YOU.
WHEN DID YOU..?
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA. I JUST WORK FOR YOU.
GTAK
GRRGGLLL
...
GRRGGLLL

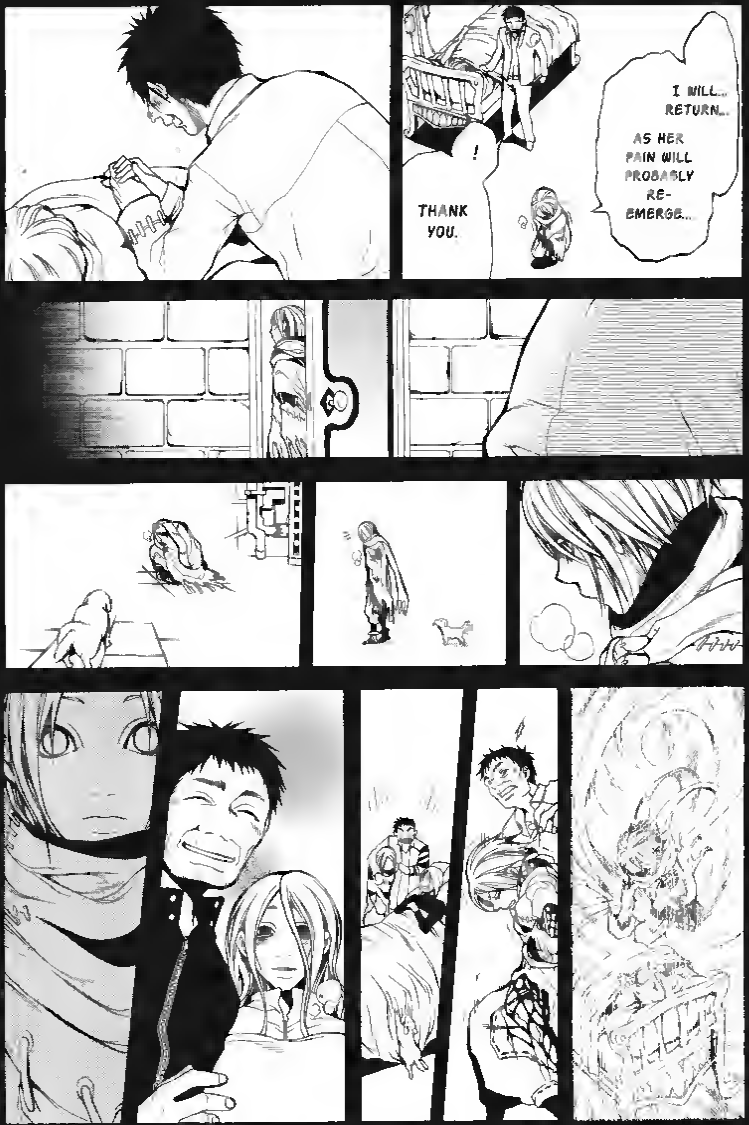
MAYBE HE CAN'T FEED HIMSELF
HUHUH
LOOKS LIKE WE'D BETTER BRING HIM SOME FOOD LATER
IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS ALREADY.
KRRH
KRRH
NO, MAYBE I SHOULD SAY IT'S ONLY BEEN TWO YEARS..
IT'S LIKE HE CAN ONLY SEE IN ONE DIRECTION AHEAD.
SOMEBODY COULD LEARN A LESSON FROM HIM
HHHHH

ARE YOU STILL THE WAY YOU WERE THEN?
KAL.
KREEE
KAL.
EEEEE

HI.
IT'S BORING IN HERE, ISN'T IT?
I BROUGHT SOMEONE I'O LIKE YOU TO MEET.
THIS BOY'S THE ONE ...?
PLEASE! MY DAUGHTER ... THE DOCTOR SAYS MY DAUGHTER ONLY HAS A FEW DAYS TO LIVE ...!
BOW
I WANT AT LEAST THE END OF HER LIFE TO BE WITHOUT PAIN.
I'LL PAY ANY AMOUNT OF MONEY ! I BEG YOU

AS OF TODAY THIS MAN'S CHILD IS YOUR CONTRACT PARTNER
USE YOUR POWER ON HER.
BA-DUMP
"scape goat"
...!
BATHUMP
PANG
IT HURTS.

AND... SHE HASN'T MADE THIS FACE IN SO LONG...!
SHE SEEMED TO BE IN SO MUCH PAIN...
!
HHH
IT HURTS.
THANK YOU SO MUCH ...!
"YOU NEEDN'T OVEREXTEND


I WILL... RETURN...
AS HER PAIN WILL PROBABLY RE-EMERGE...
!
THANK YOU.

HE SAID HE HAS NO MONEY AND THEN HE WENT AND DIED ON US.
MY INVENTIONS REQUIRE FUNDING, SO THIS PRESENTS A PROBLEM
HI, KAL.

NEVER FEAR, THOUGH
I'LL BRING YOU A NEW ONE SOON ENOUGH
IT HURTS.
IT HURTS.
IT HURTS.
IT HURTS.
WHAP!

BUT YOU SEE I HATE TACKING ON SO MANY DETAILS.
I TOLD YOU I'D PAY THE CONTRACT FEE IN INSTALL-MENTS
A PROMISE IS NO GOOD IF IT ISN'T KEPT
AUG HH
AUG
TOK
GRH
HH
GRRRR
DOES THAT MEAN ALL OF THEM WERE ?
HUH?
BESIDES, WE CAN'T START THE NEXT CONTRACT UNTIL YOU'RE DEAD
HIM
HEH
IGHHH!
WHOM
DON'T YOU AGREE?

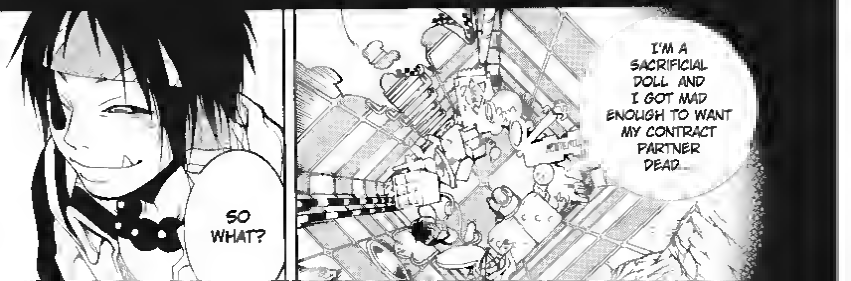
KAL.
SHUDDER
FOR THE FIRST TIME...
...I FELT FEAR.

FEAR BECAME HATRED.
HATRED BECAME ANGER.
ANGER BECAME FEAR.
THOSE THREE FEELINGS FILLED IN EVERYTHING.

I JUST WANTED TO RUN AWAY.

IT'S THE SAME NOW AS THEN
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO
YOU TALK TO YOURSELF, KAL-?! AWK-WARD!
SHFF
SHFF
ABOUT WHAT?
HE WAS YELLING SOME NONSENSE ABOUT YOU SUPPOSEDLY BEING FRAIL OR SOMETHING
THAT GODDAMN FOUR-EYES LIED TO ME!
ARGHHH!
ZENRI'S DOING, EH?
P-PLEASE CALM DOWN
I DIDN'T ASK ABOUT HIM
HUH? IF YOU WANNA TALK TO YOUR PARTNER, THEY'RE FEEDING HIM OVER YONDER
OH NO?
YOUR PARTNER'S AN INTERESTING GUY

THEN YOU CAN JUST LAY THERE AND DIE.



HAS IT OCCURRED TO YOU YET, KAL?
I MEAN, I'D NEVER SEEN YOU SO DESPERATE.
YOU WERE LISTENING?
OH...?
UH UH
I'M ACTUALLY HAPPY, AND PROUD OF YOU
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
GIVING INTO ANGER WAS CHILDISH, THOUGH.
I BET YOU DON'T WANT TO LOSE ANY MORE PARTNERS.
?
NOW COME ON, ZENRI WANTS TO SEE YOU.
JUST DON'T FORGET THAT!
I'M ON YOUR SIDE.

SKRCH
SKRCH
SATZ IS THE LEADER, WITH VALLEY SECOND-IN-COMMAND THEY SPEARHEAD THE DESTRUCTION OF TOYS
OUR MAIN FORCE IS TEAM SPADE
HEART IS THE SUPPORT TEAM. WITH SHIRAHIME AT THE HEAD, FOLLOWED BY HIMECHIYO, THEY PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR SPADE
CARDS
DIAMOND IS THE INVESTIGATIVE TEAM THAT SEARCHES FOR ALICE'S LOCATION THEY MOVE UNDER CAPTAIN KAL'S ORDERS
FINALLY, TEAM CLUB IS THE CORE OF CARDS WE HANDLE COMMUNICATIONS WITH BASE AND CLEAN UP AFTER THE OTHER TEAMS
THE OVERALL COMMANDER IS ZENRI, AND I'M HIS AIDE
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
SKRCH
YOU NEED TO LEARN ABOUT CARDS' BASIC INTERNAL STRUCTURE
SKRCH
SKRCH
WOW... HE'S EASY TO READ
KRAK
MUNCH
もり
"HMM..."
HMM
もり
MUNCH
WE'D LIKE YOU TO OPERATE ALONGSIDE CAPTAIN KAL.
WITH THIRTEEN MEMBERS EACH FOR A TOTAL OF FIFTY-TWO
IT'S FOUR TEAMS IN ALL

...FEEL ANYTHING WHEN YOU LOOKED AT ZENRI AND THE OTHERS?
. DIDN'T YOU..
FEH!
..
IT'S NOT SO MUCH THAT I SEE THEM AS DOLLS...
I TRUST THEM, AND I RELY ON THEM, BUT SOMETIMES I CAN'T HELP FEELING AFRAID.
HUH?
...THEY SCARE ME.
IT'S LIKE THEY DON'T REFLECT ANYTHING ...
THOSE FAR-SEEING EYES GET TO ME.
LIKE THEY'RE EMPTY.
KNOCK THAT SHIT OFF.
SHUNK
I STILL CAN'T LOOK HIM IN THE EYE WHEN WE TALK
I KNOW IT'S NOT RIGHT TO GO ON LIKE THIS BUT I

THANKS FOR THE FOOD
CLINK
WHAT GOOD WILL IT DO TO COMPLAIN TO ME?
GO TELL *HIM* ABOUT IT, FOOL.
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE RIGHT
HM
PLEASE DON'T BUTT HEADS TOO MUCH WITH CAPTAIN KAL.
MANJI
...
DON'T LOOK AT *ME*
IF WE DON'T GET ALONG, WE DON'T GET ALONG
"IT'S A GIVEN THAT WE'D ABANDON JUST ONE."

FWAP
HMM, THIS LOOKS PRETTY BAD.
TOY.
FWSHT
SHOULD SATZ AND I GO?
--NO, THAT'S OKAY.
WE'LL HAVE *THEM* GO INSTEAD.

UPSIDE-DOWN CITY

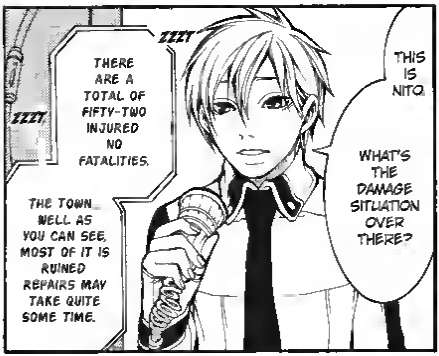
card:7 さかさまシティ

I'LL GO.
THAT'S NOT TRUE I WAS BEING PLENTY SINCERE
HA! YOU DON'T EVEN GIVE A CARE
I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT, BUT HAVE YOU RECOVERED ENOUGH?
THAT WORRIES ME A BIT
FWHHH
KOFF
WHOA, WHAT'RE YOU DOING, MR. HEAVILY-INJURED?
THESE THINGS ADVERTISE MY WEAK POINTS. I DON'T NEED 'EM.
RIP
FEHI
WELL, ISN'T THAT CONVE-NIENT
SHRIP
IT'S JUST MY WAY TO MAKE USE OF WHATEVER I CAN
TWIR

BE SURE TO THANK WHOEVER WASHED THIS FOR ME
UHH, I'M NOT SURE WHO IT WAS...
WELL, TRY HARDER TO REMEMBER
I'M READY, AND CAN GO ANYTIME
OKAY. IT'S THIS CITY, LIKE YOU WERE TOLD.
HERE, TAKE THIS MAP.

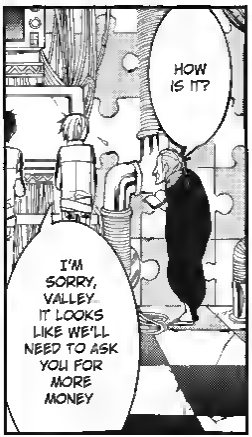
I'M SORRY
UM... YOUR BIKE'S THAT WAY
AGAIN!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO SOONER?!
SO, YEAH.
TAKE CARE
YEAH, THIS'LL TURN OUT OKAY.

NITO, OUR CLUB AGENT HAS ARRIVED IN WHITETOWN.
I CAN PUT IT ON-SCREEN.
HM HM


ZZZT
ZZZT
THERE ARE A TOTAL OF FIFTY-TWO INJURED NO FATALITIES.
THE TOWN... WELL AS YOU CAN SEE, MOST OF IT IS RUINED REPAIRS MAY TAKE QUITE SOME TIME.
THIS IS NITO.
WHAT'S THE DAMAGE SITUATION OVER THERE?

SHAAA
SHAA
WOW THAT'S INCREDIBLE

HYO HO HO
I WASN'T EVEN SURE WHAT TO DO WITH ALL MY MONEY. AT LEAST LET ME PROVIDE BACK-UP FOR CARDS.
THUMP
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT THEY SAY I'M ONE OF THE RICHEST MEN IN THE WORLD, BUT NOW I HAVE NO HEIRS


HOW IS IT?
I'M SORRY, VALLEY IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL NEED TO ASK YOU FOR MORE MONEY

BOOP
HEY, OLD MAN
VWEE
VWEE

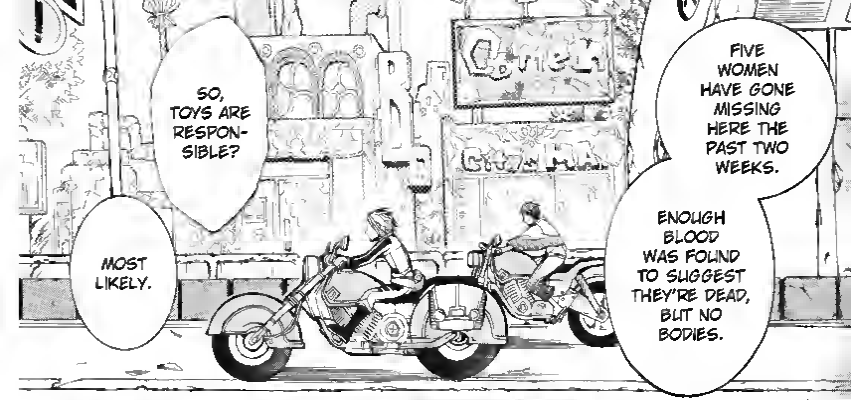
--OKAY. I'LL CONTACT YOU AGAIN ONCE I KNOW THE REPAIR BILL FOR THE TOWN
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
HO HO HO

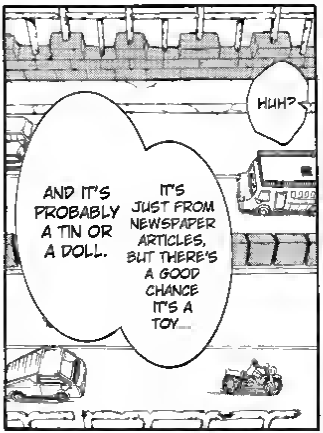
I BET YOU HAD VALLEY MAKE IT FOR YOU.
IT'S A PRESENT FROM A PIXY
CUTE, HUH?
ZENRI DREW UP THE PLANS, THOUGH.
TOY-HUNTING WORK?
YES, PLEASE GO PATROL THIS AREA WITH SATZ.
RIGHT HERE.
WHAT IS THAT...?
VWEE
VWEE
ALL RIGHT, WE'LL GO DO THIS
OH, I'LL GO GET YOUR BIKE
TAKE CARE.
VWEE
VWEEEN
...NOW CAN'T EVEN WALK AT THIS POINT?
WHAT, SUDDENLY YOU TREAT ME LIKE AN OLD MAN? HOW RUDE.
PLEASE DON'T DODGE THE QUESTION.

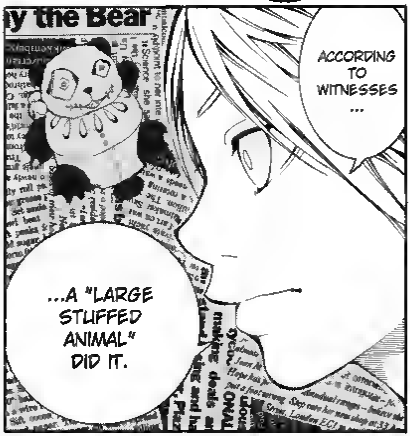
--HE TOLD YOU, DID HE?
CHEAK
YEAH, I'M WEARING OUT ALL RIGHT.
BEING AN ANTIQUE SUCKS.
YOUR BODY'S... ALREADY QUITE WORN OUT, ISN'T IT?
I HEARD VALLEY MADE THOSE CIGARETTES TO KEEP YOUR INSIDES FROM DETERIO-RATING...
OH, IT'S ALREADY PUT TOGETHER YOU'RE ONE GOOD COMMANDER'S AIDE.
PLEASE HELP ME OUT A LITTLE MORE COMMAN-DER
THIS IS THE WHITETOWN REPORT CAPTAIN KAL AND THE OTHERS SUBMITTED EARLIER
HERE
FWUP
PLEASE AT LEAST LOOK OVER IT.
BUT HEY, YOU CAN ALWAYS--
--DO YOUR MOVING FOR YOU?

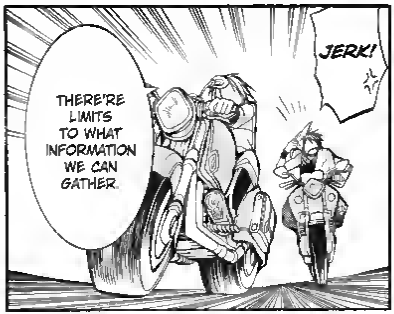
--A STRANGE CAT THAT VANISHES AND REAPPEARS
CHESHIRE CAT...?
BLAH BLAH
AN EXPLOSION
HE WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS TO PLAY HIS GAMES.
HUH?
SOMETHING ABOUT THIS BUGS ME.
WHAT IS IT?
I FEEL LIKE I'M FORGET-TING SOME-THING...
WAS HE...
WAS HE ALWAYS THIS FICKLE?

UH ..
I-I DIDN'T MEAN ...
--YOU SURE . .
KNOW A LOT ABOUT AAA.
MAYBE I DO, MAYBE I DON'T.
FLIP
AGH! UPSIDE-DOWN CITY?


FIVE WOMEN HAVE GONE MISSING HERE THE PAST TWO WEEKS.
ENOUGH BLOOD WAS FOUND TO SUGGEST THEY'RE DEAD, BUT NO BODIES.
SO, TOYS ARE RESPONSIBLE?
MOST LIKELY.


HUH?
IT'S JUST FROM NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, BUT THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE IT'S A TOY...
AND IT'S PROBABLY A TIN OR A DOLL.


ACCORDING TO WITNESSES ...
...A "LARGE STUFFED ANIMAL" DID IT.

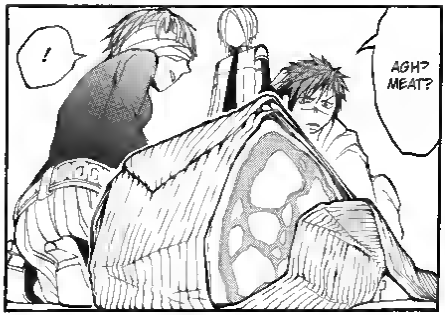

JERK!
THERE'RE LIMITS TO WHAT INFORMATION WE CAN GATHER.

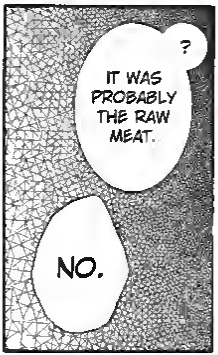
FWAP
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE RELYIN' ON?
BWAH!

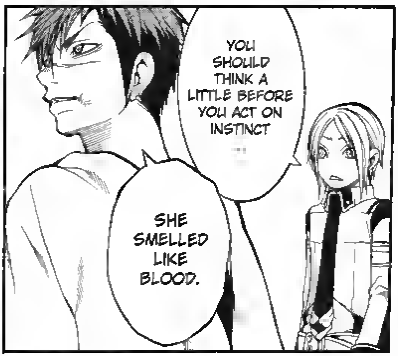
I HEAR IT'S OVER-FLOWING WITH HUMOR, AND THE LAUGHTER NEVER STOPS.
YEAH
AS THE NAME SUGGESTS, EVERYTHING'S UPSIDE-DOWN
THERE, YOU CAN SEE IT NOW.
APPA-RENTLY THE CITY GOT ITSELF A NEW MAYOR A MONTH AGO.
SOME-THING ABOUT THE MAYOR?
TCH!
CAN'T READ IT ANYWAY.

... SOME-THIN' FEELS ...
... WEIRD ABOUT THIS PLACE.
WHAT'S THIS?
DOWN?
UGH!
THAT'S MORE COMPLI-CATED THAN FUNNY.
APPARENTLY ALL THE SIGNS MEAN THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT THEY SAY
GOING UP?
I FAINTLY SENSE A TOY HERE.
THE HUNCH WAS CORRECT HOPEFULLY WE CAN GET SOME INFO ABOUT ALICE ..
?
SOME-THIN' STINKS
... SOME-THIN' FEELS ...
SNIFF

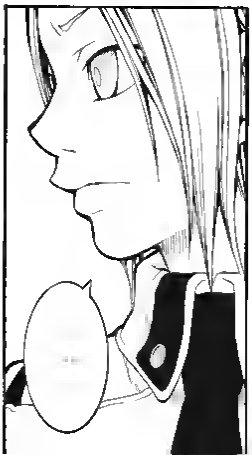
WHO'S THERE?!
GRAB
EEK!
A STINK ..?
TMP
TMP
TMP
UH, I-I'M SORRY.
I WAS IN SUCH A HURRY, I DIDN'T NOTICE YOU THERE...
EEK?
EGH ...
SURE

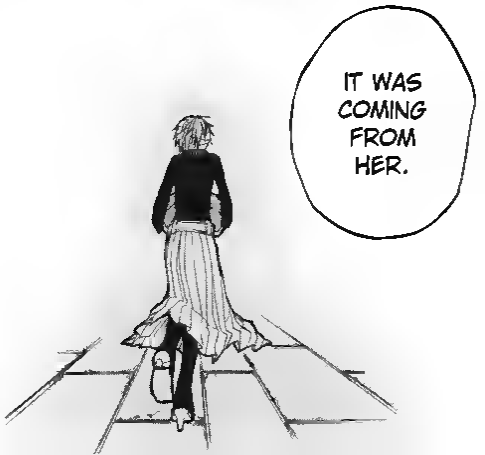

!
AGH? MEAT?
OH, YES ...
LOOKS LIKE WE MISTOOK YOU FOR AN ENEMY CAN YOU STAND?
SHOVE
ENEMY?


?
IT WAS PROBABLY THE RAW MEAT.
NO.


YOU SHOULD THINK A LITTLE BEFORE YOU ACT ON INSTINCT
SHE SMELLED LIKE BLOOD.

SORRY, I NEED TO GO
I REALLY AM SORRY!
TMP
TMP TMP




IT WAS COMING FROM HER.

HAVE YOU BEEN A GOOD BOY, ASHE?
TOTTER
TOTTER
I'M HOOOME
GCHAK
I BROUGHT YOU FOOD
!
THUD
WHACK
SPIN

!
WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A HURRY?
YOU'RE THE TWO FROM BEFORE...
HUH?!
GUH ...!
THAT WAS... SUDDEN!
EXCUSE ME.
UH?
AH!
WHAT IS THIS...?

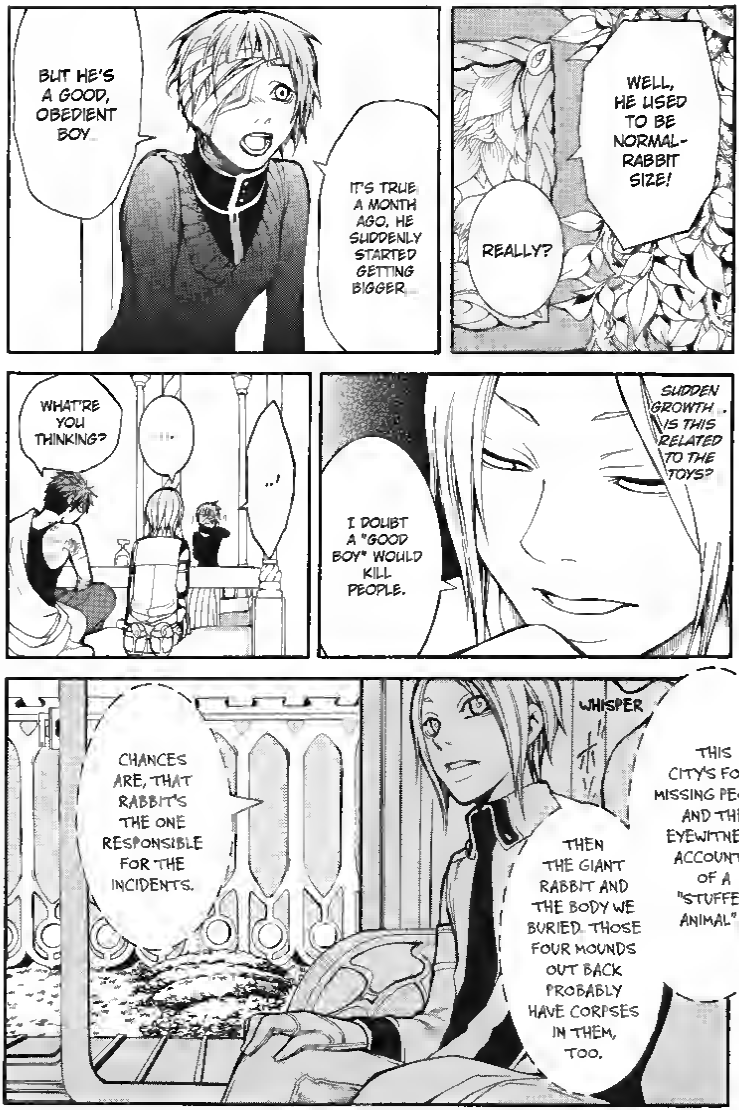
UH...!
WHAT WERE YOU KEEPING IN HERE?
A CAGE?
A CARNIVORE, HUH?
AND IT'S BIG ENOUGH TO NEED A CAGE LIKE THIS
IT SEEMS TO HAVE ESCAPED, TOO.
THAT PIECE OF MEAT IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU TO EAT BY YOURSELF
IT'S FEED... ISN'T IT?
IT'S OUT BACK.
SAY WHAT?!
AGHH?!
AIIEEE
!
--THIS ISN'T GOOD.
NO, IT'S NOT.
GUESS IT'S NOT A TOY
UM, EXCUSE ME!

CHARGE
A RABBIT ?!

KACHING
IS THAT A CORPSE?!
STAY BACK!
WHACK
RABBITS ARE AMONG THE MOST NIMBLE LAND ANIMALS.
CHAK
IT HAS THE ADVANTAGE.
YOU'RE DEAD MEAT!
WHIP

UGH...?!
NO!
GET BACK HERE, YOU!
SHFFFF
AH!

IT'S NO PROBLEM WE'RE THE ONES WHO BARGED IN ON YOU
I'M SORRY, I DON'T DRINK ANYTHING BUT MINERAL WATER.
GLUG
GLUG
YOU SAW THE BITE MARKS... THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT IT KILLED SOMEONE
WHY DID YOU PROTECT THAT RABBIT?
LET ME GET RIGHT TO THE POINT.
HUH...
HUH...
HE'S THE ONE WHO BROKE OUT OF THAT CAGE?!
AGHH?!
--HIS NAME IS ASHE.
IF THAT HAPPENS, TOYS WILL BE THE LEAST OF OUR PROBLEMS.
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S YOUR PET OR WHAT, BUT THE CITY IS HEADED FOR A PANIC AT THIS RATE.

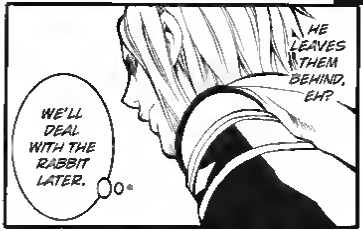

BUT HE'S A GOOD, OBEDIENT BOY.
IT'S TRUE. A MONTH AGO, HE SUDDENLY STARTED GETTING BIGGER.
WELL, HE USED TO BE NORMAL-RABBIT SIZE!
REALLY?
WHAT'RE YOU THINKING?
..!
I DOUBT A "GOOD BOY" WOULD KILL PEOPLE.
SUDDEN GROWTH... IS THIS RELATED TO THE TOYS?
CHANCES ARE, THAT RABBIT'S THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCIDENTS.
WHISPER
THEN THE GIANT RABBIT AND THE BODY WE BURIED. THOSE FOUR MOUNDS OUT BACK PROBABLY HAVE CORPSES IN THEM, TOO.
THIS CITY'S FOUR MISSING PEOPLE AND THE EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS OF A "STUFFED ANIMAL."

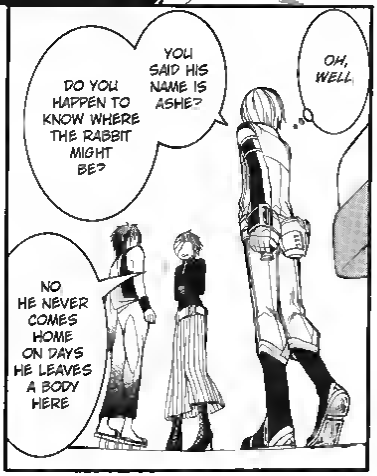
THAT ASHE STARTED... KILLING PEOPLE...
IT'S ONLY RECENT-LY...
QUIET DOWN
AGHH?!
WHAP
スパーン
THIS
PLEASE! PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYBODY ABOUT THIS!
AGHH...
SO THAT'S WHY YOU WERE TRYING TO FEED HIM MEAT.
CLENCH
キリキリ
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT HE WAS EATING THEM
BUT HE WASN'T... AND HE STOPPED EATING GRASS, TOO...
OF COURSE, ALL I DID WAS WATCH.
...!
YOUR PET IS KILLING PEOPLE, SO YOU'RE ASKING A *LOT* FOR US TO KEEP IT QUIET.

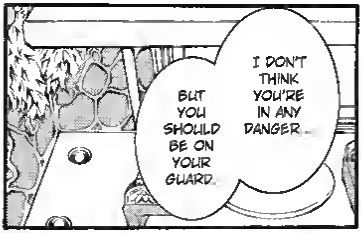
AH...
YES.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M SORRY
I LOST MY PARENTS IN A FIRE... AND THE BURNS ON HALF MY BODY MADE ME AFRAID TO GO OUT IN PUBLIC...
ASHE HAS BEEN MY SUPPORT EVER SINCE...
BUT, NOW HE'S...! WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
SHUH?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WHAT ANYMORE...
HAHA... MAYBE IT'D BE EASIER IF I WENT STRANGE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.
EVERY-ONE ELSE?
OH, I THINK YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHEN YOU SEE THEM...
...BUT THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE PEOPLE IN THIS CITY.

KEEP AN EYE ON THE RED DOG?
MEAN-WHILE, THE RED DOG...
I GUESS I SHOULD ASK THE MAYOR ABOUT THE CITY
SHE'S IN BAD SHAPE, MENTAL-LY...
AAA'S QUICK TO SHOW INTEREST IN NEW THINGS...
SO HE MIGHT ALREADY HAVE HIS EYE ON HIM
THAT TOY WAS APPARENTLY COMING FOR HIM WHEN IT BLEW UP.
WHY?
YEAH, TRY TO STICK WITH HIM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
FROM NOW ON, IF HE SETS ANYTHING UP, THERE'S PROBABLY A CHANCE IT'LL BE CONNECTED TO ALICE.
JUST THINK OF RED DOG AS BAIT ON THE HOOK.
KRAK

IF THEY'VE FREAKED OUT THEY JUST NEED A GOOD ASS-KICKING
HUH? WAIT, WHAT?!
BUT WHAT A TIRE-SOME BAIT HE IS
HOW DID YOU REACH THAT CONCLUSION?! HOW DID YOU REACH THAT CONCLU-SION?!
I'LL KILL 'EM.


HE LEAVES THEM BEHIND, EH?
WE'LL DEAL WITH THE RABBIT LATER.


OH, WELL
YOU SAID HIS NAME IS ASHE?
DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE THE RABBIT MIGHT BE?
NO HE NEVER COMES HOME ON DAYS HE LEAVES A BODY HERE


I DON'T THINK YOU'RE IN ANY DANGER.
BUT YOU SHOULD BE ON YOUR GUARD.

HUH?
WHERE?

LET'S GO.
I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO EXCUSE US NOW.

SHUT UP
IF WE'RE GOING TO THE MAYOR'S, JUST SAY SO, HAIRLINE
HE'S NOT SMART, AND I WISH HE WOULDN'T WASTE SO MUCH ENERGY
IT'S SUCH A PAIN...
THERE'S NO STOPPING HIM, ONCE HE GETS AN IDEA IN HIS HEAD
HE'S THE TYPE WHO BLURTS OUT ANYTHING THAT COMES TO MIND
BUT...
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING?
...HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING WHEN HE FOUND OUT I'M A DOLL.

HEHEH
IT'S NOT OFTEN YOU FIND SOMEBODY THAT EASY TO READ
EASY TO READ. HOW?
SOME-THING SEEMS HAZY.
WHISPER
SAY SOME-THING
AGHH ?!
WHY IS IT?
DON'T BOTHER
"IT'S A GOOD WAY TO KILL TIME."
. THIS GUY'S HEAD.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT GOES THROUGH .

DON'T BOTHER. I DON'T NEED IT.
HEY THERE, YOU TWO YOUNG MEN.
OH!
HOW ABOUT SOME CREPES? THEY'RE SWEET AND TASTY.
WHERE ARE THEY?
ASH? CREPES?

AGHHH?
SO LIKE, WHERE?
SCREEEE
CREPE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHERE? RIGHT HERE.
HEY
WHRLL
CRASSSH
WHOCK
WHUMP
WHUMP
WHUMP
AHAHAHAHAHAHA
CLATA
THIRD ONE I'VE TAKEN OUT TODAY!
YOU LITTLE SHIT ...!
OHH, YOU SURE GOT ME.
CLATA

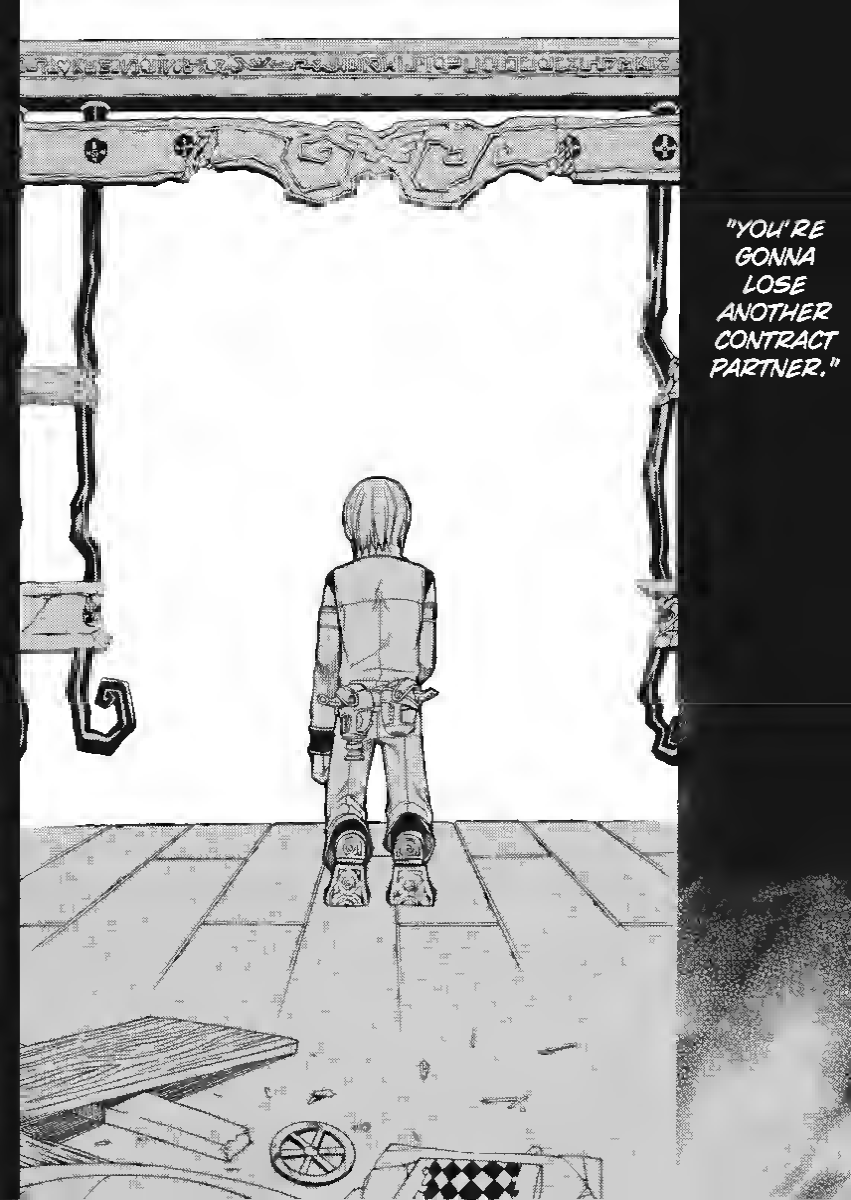
WHAT'S WITH THEM ...?
WANT ME TO BREAK SOME MORE, MA'AM?!
OH MY, YOU'RE SO KIND.
DANGLE
LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT A BROKEN BONE, TO BOOT. THANKS
...!
ARE THESE YOURS?
#17 MURMUR
WHAT, REALLY?
!
SNATCH
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
WHOA! HE PICKED UP HER GLASSES!
WHAT A CREEP
WHAT IN THE WORLD ...?
WHAT'D YOU DO, ANYWAY?

"THERE'S SOME-THING WRONG WITH THE PEOPLE IN THIS CITY..."
THERE SURE IS ..
WHAT'S WITH THIS MOOD?
OF ALL THE NERVE...
YOU MEAN THOSE TWO?
HE PICKED UP HER GLASSES ...
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
...IS YOU SERIOUS?
KRRSH
WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?!
CRASSSH
THIS IS FOR WHAT YOU DID TO HER GLASSES!
GRAB
KRUNK

"I DON'T NEED IT."
KH!
RED DOG!
!
TWITCH

VNNN
RAH HHH!
TCH!
GRAB
FORE-HEAD-BOY!
GO ON AHEAD!
AUGHHHH

AHAHAHAH
--OH, THERE'S A RIVER DOWN THERE.
SPLOOSH
IT'S NO...
HE'S THE ONE WHO SAID HE DOESN'T NEED ME.
"YOU TEND TO GIVE UP TOO EASILY."
... CONCERN OF MINE.


"YOU'RE GONNA LOSE ANOTHER CONTRACT PARTNER."

BUHA!
BLOOSH
SWOOM
!
OHH, THERE WAS A RIVER DOWN HERE.
I GOT WASHED-DOWN-STREAM...
SHLAP
SHLAP
SHLAP
DIZZY
WHAT THE...?
?!
SINK
FLASH

AGHHH!
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN.
GR RR N

THE MARCH HARE

card:8 三月うさぎ

SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN.
BLUP
WHOCK
!
HE'S QUICK, ALL RIGHT
TCH!
VM!

GAH!
WHOM
VNN
BAS-
TARD
...!
TMP
GEEK!
!

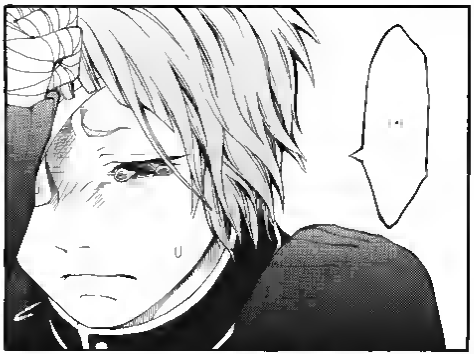
I'LL KILL YOU!
KEE EEN!
SLASH
"ASHE HAS BEEN MY SUPPORT EVER SINCE..."
TCH!
HE MAKES A FAST GETAWAY, TOO
FLASH
AH?!
FLASH
AGHH!

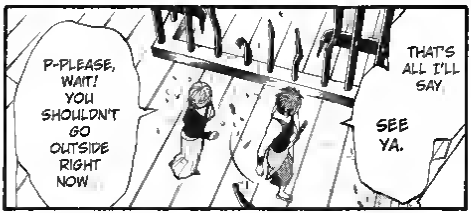
TAK
ASHE ...
"WE PUT OUR NOSES TOGE-THER."
"EHEHEH SEE THIS? IT'S A SIGN OF AFFECT-ION."
"ASHE! ASHE!"
?
WHY ...?

"IT MEANS 'I LOVE YOU!'..."
FLINCH
CHONK
BATHUMP
BATHUMP
I-I'M SORRY ...!
HEY, THERE
EE EE EK
WHAT'S THAT ...?
N-NO.
YOU KNOW ANY PLACE HE'S LIKELY TO GO?
THE RABBIT HASN'T COME BACK, HAS HE?

WHAT?
...!
WHAT'S IT ABOUT?
I CAN'T READ IT
FLIP
ASHE WAS?
YEAH, THE FRIGGIN' RABBIT WAS LOOKIN' AT IT.
!
UNBLEMISHED BEAUTY THROUGH WOMENS BLOOD
YOU'RE KIDDING ME...
...AND MAINTAINS HER OWN YOUTH AND UNBLEMISHED BEALITY BY BATHING IN THEIR BLOOD...
IT'S ABOUT ...A WITCH...
A STORY ABOUT A WITCH WHO KILLS SEVERAL HUNDRED BEALITIFUL WOMEN...
HE'S DOING THIS FOR ME?
CRY
BUT DOES HE BELIEVE IN IT?
YEAH
TCH!
--SO, THIS STORY REALLY HAPPEN-ED?
NO IT'S JUST FICTION

I'M GONNA KILL THAT RABBIT.

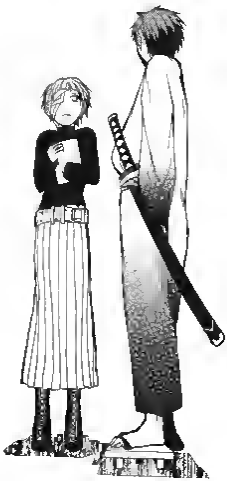




P-PLEASE, WAIT! YOU SHOULDN'T GO OUTSIDE RIGHT NOW

THAT'S ALL I'LL SAY

SEE YA.



ASHE GETS VIOLENT WHEN 6:00 ROLLS AROUND

AND HE DOES IT FOR EXACTLY ONE HOUR

AGH?

WHERE'S THE RED DOG?
BONNING
6:00...
HE'S ALWAYS IN HIS CAGE WHEN IT HAPPENS ...
BUT NOT TODAY--
BONNING
BONNING
DOES HE EVEN PLAN ON MEETING BACK UP?
I WAS TOLD TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM, BUT BEFORE I KNOW IT HE'S OUT OF SIGHT
IRK
IRK
CALM DOWN CALM DOWN.
THE ONLY THING I NEED TO FOCUS ON IS THE TOY.

HAVE YOU MANAGED TO FIND THAT TOY YET?
"KAL."
Find it early.

AUGHH
GUK
!
AHHHH
AUGHHH
WHAT'S GOING ON?
GRAAAA
IS AAA IN THIS CITY?
SHIVER
IS HE... HERE?

IT'S THE RABBIT!
AHAHAH
AUGHH
RAHHH
AHAHAH
ASHE..!
YOU
WHAT IS UP WITH THIS CITY?
EVEN AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
PLEASE, RUN AWAY! HE'LL CALM DOWN AFTER AN HOUR PASSES!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HE ALWAYS RAMPAGES BETWEEN 6:00 AND 7:00!
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D ATTACK PEOPLE LIKE THIS!

THAT'S NOT SO BAD, IF IT'S JUST ONE HOUR
YOU HURRY AND GET TO SAFETY.
BUT . . !
AUGHHH
KRRK
WHAT IF . ?
KRRK
RIOT OR NOT IT LOOKS LIKE ATTACKING PEOPLE IS THE POINT.
JUST ONE HOUR ?
AUGHHHHH
WE CAN'T GET HUNG UP OVER A BIT OF COLLA-TERAL DAMAGE.
EEEEK
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH HERE.
WHUMP
HURRY AND...

!
TUG
WHAT'RE YOU LAUGHIN' AT, FOOL?! GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE!
EEP
AHA HAHA
YOU AGAIN, HUH? BUZZ OFF!
IT'D BE EASIER IF WE JUST TOOK SHELTER FOR AN HOUR.
DON'T GET YOURSELF BUSTED UP BEFORE WE DEAL WITH DESTROYING THE TOY.
SNAG
I BET YOU'RE JUST DRUNK ON YOUR OWN STRENGTH.
ARE YOU TRYING TO SHOW OFF?
YOU HYPO-CRITE.

I JUST...
... CAN'T ABIDE THIS.
THERE IT IS AGAIN.

ONCE AGAIN, IT'S ALL HAZY.
DASH
ASHE, OVER HERE!
I'LL DISTRACT HIM...!
PLEASE, KILL ASHE!

ALL RIGHT.
THIS IS POINT-LESS
HIS OPPONENT'S A QUICK, WITTED ANIMAL EVEN THE RED DOG WOULD HAVE TROUBLE WOUNDING IT FATALLY
WE SHOULD CORNER HIM SOME-WHERE...!
TCH!
HOLD STILL!
WYN
HE WENT INSIDE THE CLOCK TOWER! WILL THAT WORK?
WE JUST NEED TO WAIT A FEW MINUTES
NO! THERE'S ANOTHER WAY OUT OVER THERE
WE'D HAVE TO CLOSE ONE OF THE GATES
I WOULD JUST
EVACUATE THE CITY'S RESIDENTS!

GRRRRH
GRRRRH
WHAM
GRRRH
-- DAMN IT!
WHAT AM I DOING?
MOVE !
KRRRH
GRRH
IF I GET THIS GATE DOWN WE CAN CAGE IT IN

WHOCK
CHOMP
SLASH!
PYE EE!
HRRH
GRIND
GAH
THUD
WHAT THE?!
HIS EAR!
HE CAN'T KEEP HIS BALANCE NOW
CRAP, HE'S GONNA RUN AGAIN
ASHE, NO!
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND

AH HH HH!
MOVE!
GRIND
GRIND
SHANNNG
!

CLATA
CLATA
KRAKT

HE'S TRAPPED!
ASHE, COME TO ME!

SORRY ABOUT THIS.

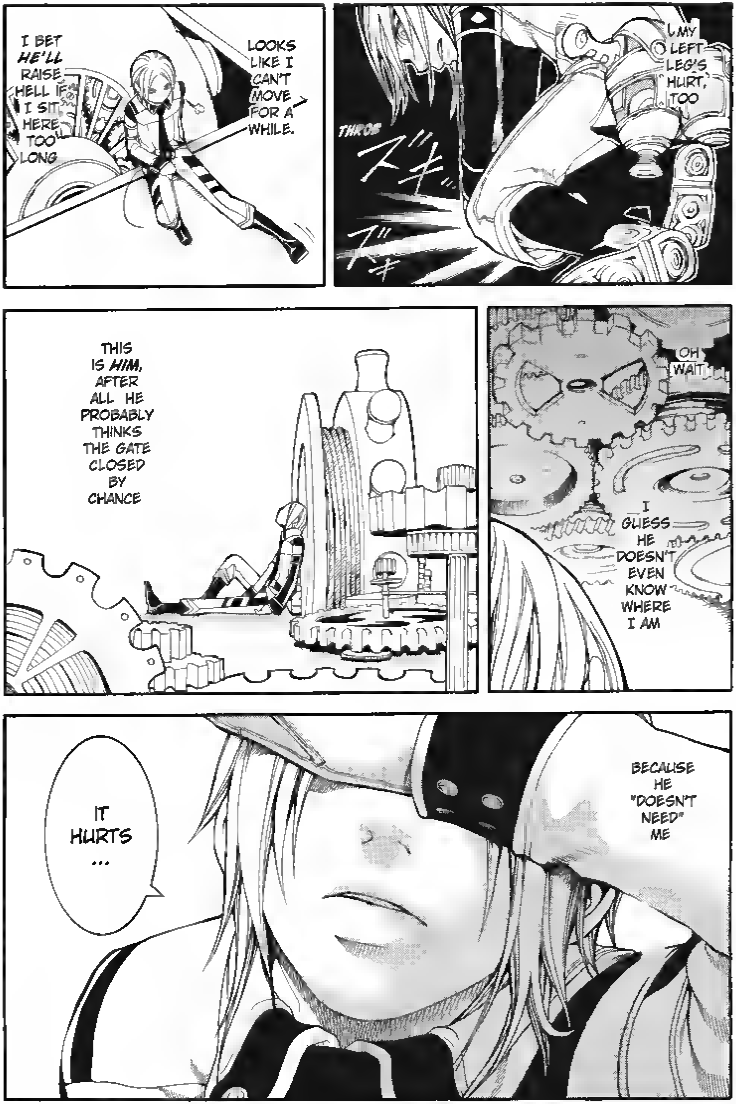
SHUNK

4
TICK
BONNNG
BONNNG
--7:00 EXACTLY.
TCH!
BONNNG
BONNNG
BONNNG

...ASHE.
TWITCH
HUG
WHY'D YOU DO SUCH A THING...?
DOING THAT WASN'T GOING TO HEAL MY BURNS.
I'M NOT HAPPY WITH YOU...
STUPID ...!
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE WHAT YOU DID ...

I HATE YOU ...!

THIS IS ABSURD.
HMPH
CLANK
TWINGE
--!
THUD
WELL IT SHOULD HEAL SOON

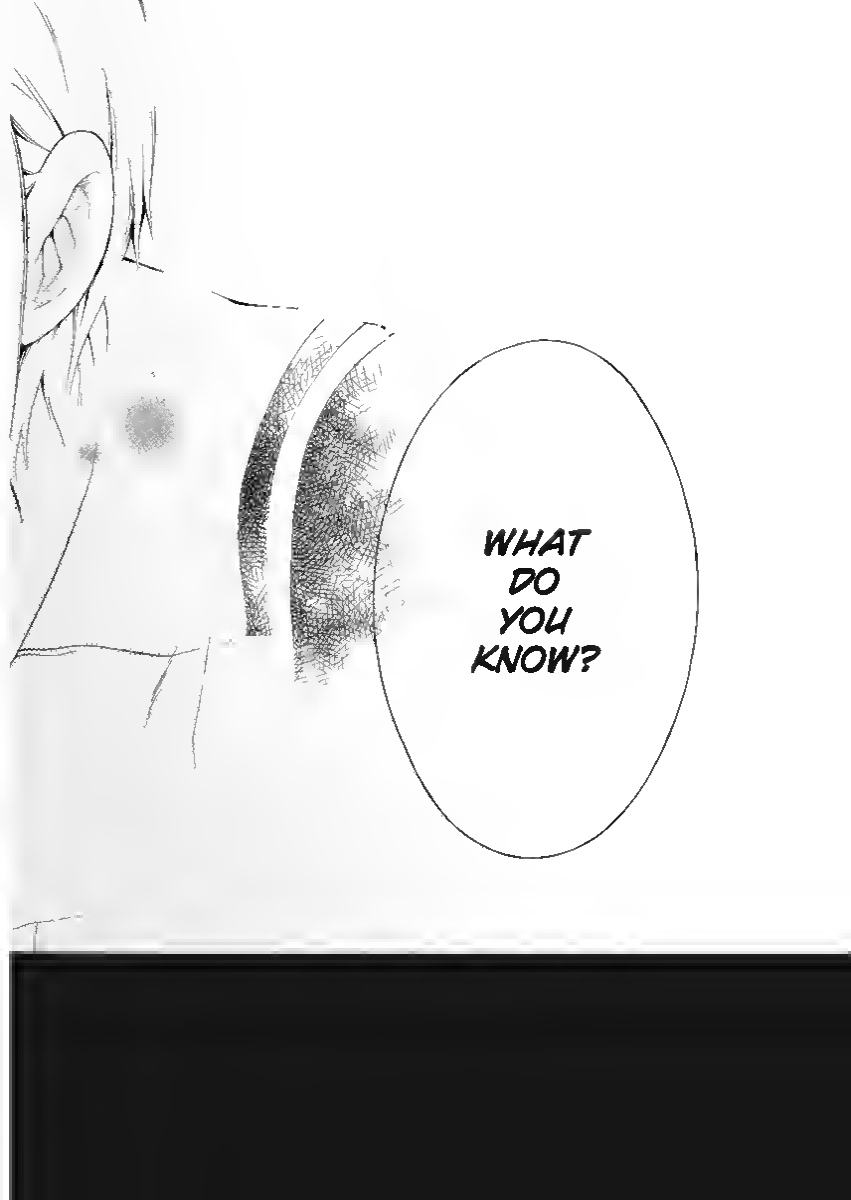

I BET HE'LL RAISE HELL IF I SIT HERE TOO LONG
LOOKS LIKE I CAN'T MOVE FOR A WHILE.
THROB
MY LEFT LEG'S HURT, TOO
THIS IS HIM, AFTER ALL HE PROBABLY THINKS THE GATE CLOSED BY CHANCE
OH, WAIT
I GUESS HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHERE I AM
IT HURTS ...
BECAUSE HE "DOESN'T NEED" ME

WHAT'RE YOU DOIN', HAIRLINE?

WHAT, YOU THOUGHT I DIDN'T NOTICE YOU?
C'MON, STAND UP!
UH?
--IT HURTS.
AGHH ?!
WHO WAS TELLING WHO NOT TO GET BUSTED UP, BACK THERE?
SHUT UP.

...TCH!
I JUST COULDN'T ABIDE IT.
THANKS.
YOU GO AROUND TRYIN' TO STEAL A GUY'S INJURIES, AND YOU'RE ANNOYING.
WHY DON'T YOU REIN IT IN A LITTLE?
GRAHHH
HUH?
DON'T MAKE ME REPEAT MYSELF! I WAS SAYIN' THANKS!

BESIDES, EVEN IF I TRY TO TAKE THEM, YOU INSIST YOU DON'T NEED IT.
YOU BET.
"REIN IT IN"?
IT'S FUNNY, HEARING THAT FROM YOU.
ASHHH ?
INJURIES ARE A SIGN THAT I FOUGHT. I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET YOU HAVE 'EM.
--HUH?
AND IT MAKES ME SICK TO THINK OF SOMEBODY ELSE HURTING BECAUSE OF MY PAIN
--DIDN'T YOU MEAN, YOU DON'T NEED ME...?
HOW THE HELL'D YOU PULL THAT ONE OUT OF YOUR ASS?
C'MON, LET'S GO.
WELL, HUH

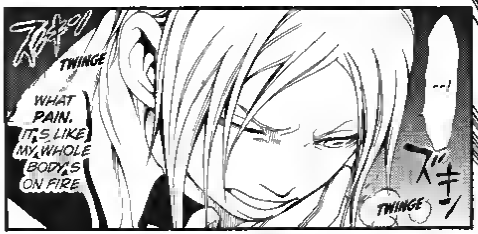

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

THERE WAS A SOUND.

I'M STILL NOT AWARE OF WHAT THE SOUND...
WILL BRING ABOUT.
I'M NOT AWARE OF ANYTHING.

YEAH.
OKAY YEAH
HUH?
HUH? YOU SAY SOME-THING?
...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT...
...I'VE DECIDED I'M GOING TO DO AS I SEE FIT, TOO.
SURE, SUIT YOUR-SELF.
"SCAPEGOAT"
"scape goat"
FWASH
AGH?

card:9 A MAD TEA-PARTY
歪曲ティーパーティー

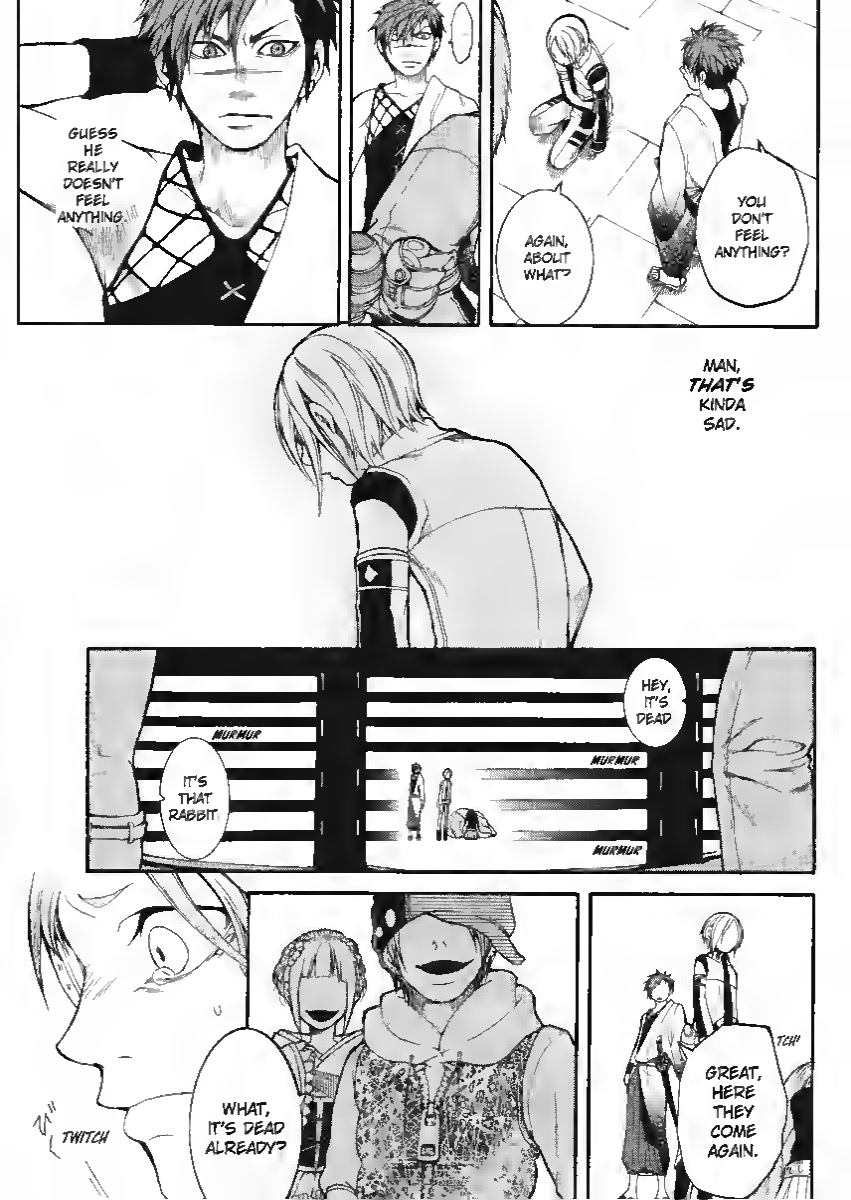


I NEVER ASKED FOR IT!
SO WHAT?
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, DON'T LEAVE YOURSELF OPEN.
I NEED YOU TO TAKE OUT AS MANY TOYS AS POSSIBLE ...AND I HEAL QUICKLY, ANYWAY
THIS WAY SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR BOTH OF US TO WORK.
NEXT TIME YOU DO IT, YOU'RE GODDAMN DEAD.
SHIFFFF
YOU KNOW, IT'S EASY TO TELL WHEN YOU GET IRRITATED
OH SCREW YOU, HAIRLINE! NOW YOU'RE ALL DEFIANT?!
DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT RABBIT BEFORE PEOPLE START GATHERING ?
SEETHE

I MEAN, THIS RABBIT...
HIS SUDDEN GROWTH WAS PROBABLY A SIDE-EFFECT OF SOME BIOLOGICAL REJECTION
AH
???
WHAT'S WRONG?
--DIDN'T YOU FIND IT STRANGE?
--I THOUGHT SO
HEY WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?
AND IT MADE HIM FEROCIOUS ENOUGH TO ATTACK PEOPLE
!
WHAT'RE YOU...?
SHRIP
DIG
KRRRCH

!
THAT'S A...
IT'S A TOY CORE. IT WAS CONNECTED PRETTY DEEPLY.
HE WAS A TOY?!
NO, CHANCES ARE THIS WAS PUT IN HIM INTEN-TIONALLY.
THE CORE WAS ERODING HIS BRAIN AND TURNING HIM HALFWAY INTO A TOY.
WHAT IS THAT ?
IT'S LIKE A CONTROL DEVICE THAT KILLS PEOPLE.
TH-THEN IF WE'D JUST TAKEN THAT OUT, ASHE WOULD BE...!
CORES ARE VERY COMPLEX, AND REJECTION OF THEM IS INTENSE
THEY SHOULDN'T BE PUT INSIDE LIVING THINGS

OH... OKAY...
IT WAS TOO LATE, IN ANY CASE HIS BODY COULDN'T FULLY WITHSTAND THE SIDE EFFECTS.
CLATTER
SEEING AS HE ONLY ACTED LIKE A TOY ON A KILLING SPREE ONE HOUR A DAY, HE MUST NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ADAPT TO IT.
THIS ISN'T THE FIRST CREATURE I'VE SEEN THAT WASN'T ABLE TO HANDLE BECOMING A TOY.
YOU FIGURED IT OUT PRETTY WELL.
ABOUT WHAT?
--ARE YOU SAD?


GUESS HE REALLY DOESN'T FEEL ANYTHING.
AGAIN, ABOUT WHAT?
YOU DON'T FEEL ANYTHING?
MAN, THAT'S KINDA SAD.
MURMUR
IT'S THAT RABBIT
HEY, IT'S DEAD
MURMUR
MURMUR
TWITCH
WHAT, IT'S DEAD ALREADY?
TCH
GREAT, HERE THEY COME AGAIN.

HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT. DEAD, DEAD.
IT CAME OUT OF NOWHERE AND IT'S ALREADY DEAD?
WHAT, IT'S ALREADY DEAD?! I WISH IT'D GONE NUTS SOME MORE.
YEAH, THEN THERE'D BE A BUNCH MORE DEAD PEOPLE.
AHAHA
KYA HA HA HA
HA
MAYBE THE RABBIT WAS THAT GIRL'S PET
AHAHA HAHA, THAT'S FUNNY!
OH, YEAH? WELL NOW IT'S DEAD, SO YAY!
HAHA
HEE HEE HEE
THIS IS SO MUCH FUN, IT HURTS!
YEAH, FOR ME, TOO!
DID SHE KILL IT?
NOT BAD, WHEN IT WAS HER OWN PET.
SHE ACTUALLY OWNED THAT HUGE MUTATION? GROSS!
MINCE!
MIGHT AS WELL MINCE UP THE OWNER TOO, WHILE THEY'RE AT IT!
THIS CITY IS INSANE.
CLENCH!
CUT IT UP SOME MORE! MINCE IT!

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!
WHY DOES IT...
BOTHER ME SO MUCH...?
HA HA
AHH HA HA
WHAT'S SO-- ENJOY-ABLE ABOUT THIS?-
I'M GONNA BURY HIM.
MUSH
MOO

CLENCH
AHAHAHAHA
HEY
--I'M OKAY
I CAN WALK NOW.
HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA
WHAT'S THAT?
BEEP
BLINK
BEEP
CARDS
IT'S FROM CARDS.

--HEY.
SORRY TO BUZZ SO SUDDENLY.
THAT'S OKAY. SOME THINGS CAME UP HERE AND I WASN'T ABLE TO CONTACT YOU SOONER
ARE YOU DONE THERE?
WITH PART OF IT, AT LEAST. I STILL SENSE A TOY, SO...
OKAY.
TURNS OUT WE RECEIVED SOME INFO THAT MIGHT BE RELATED TO ALICE.
!
YOUR DIAMOND TEAM'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND APPARENTLY SAW A BUNCH OF TOYS COMING OUT OF CROSS OAK.

OF COURSE, WE'LL LOOK INTO IT.
PLEASE SEND A MEMBER OF DIAMOND TO INVESTIGATE.
I'LL HEAD THERE TOO ONCE THIS CASE IS WRAPPED UP. PLEASE TELL MY AGENT NOT TO DO ANYTHING RASH IF IT'S THERE, BUT TO COME BACK AND REPORT. ALSO--
CROSS OAK? I THOUGHT THAT WAS JUST AN EMPTY FOREST...
THAT'S WHERE ALICE IS?
IT'S JUST A POSSIBILITY WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SOME-THING'S BOTHERING ME A LITTLE.
ALSO?
THERE'S A BOOK I NEED...
--SO IT SOUNDS LIKE HIME TEAM'S ON THE JOB
THAT IT DOES.
K-THUD
CAPTAIN SHIRASHIME, STOP MOVING AROUND!
AHHHAHH!
I WANNA GO!
BUT YOU ONLY JUST GOT BACK.
TAKE SOMETHING TO KAL-CHY? I'LL GO!
OKAY, I'LL HAVE SOMEONE DELIVER IT TO YOU.

I'LL ALSO HAVE THEM BRING YOU THE CROSS OAK REPORT, SO ASK THEM ABOUT ANY DETAILS
I'LL TALK TO YOU AGAIN WHEN YOU'RE DONE BUT WAS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?
NO NOT ESPECIALLY
EVEN IF IT'S TRIVIAL
...SOME-ONE SAID...
...“THANK YOU” TO ME.
DON'T TAKE IT SERIOUSLY IT WAS SARCASM
JANGLE
YAWN
OH, YEAH?
YES, IT IS.
THAT'S RARE, FOR YOU TO GET THANKED

HI.
NICE TO MEET YOU, RED DOG.
SNIPT
...WHO'RE YOU?

AHH DID HE DO SOME-THING AGAIN?
FOR NOW...
IS THE RED DOG OKAY?
OHH :=
RED DOG, HE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU...
CAN YOU PUT HIM ON REAL QUICK?
I TRULY WISH HE WOULD, THOUGH
HMHM HM... HE NEVER LEARNS.
RED DOG?

MR. MAYOR!
WHAT BRINGS YOU OUT AT THIS LATE HOUR, MR MAYOR?
MR. MAYOR.
CAD CAD
CAD CAD
わぁ
わぁ
わぁ
NICE CITY, ISN'T IT? EVERYONE HERE ADORES ME.
LOOK, PAL...
AHH, SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
SHALL WE?
イラ
イラ
イラ
PISSED
NOBODY ASKED WHAT I WANT TO KNOW ALREADY IS WHY THIS PLACE IS SO SCREWED -UP!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHA?!
AREN'T YOU WITH ME RIGHT NOW BECAUSE YOU KNOW?!
OH, IT'S THE MAYOR.
I'M JOKING.
I'M THE MAYOR OF COURSE I'M AWARE OF IT.
EHEH

A HALLUCI-NOGEN'S TO BLAME.
GOOD WORK. DON'T LET ANYONE COME NEAR HERE FOR A TIME.
AS YOU WISH, SIR.
AND YOU'RE OKAY WITH THIS? AREN'T YOU THE MAYOR?!
COME NOW, DON'T GET ANGRY.
LET'S TALK, AND ENJOY SOME TEA.
CHAK
THEY BEGAN TO SEE THINGS THAT WEREN'T THERE...
...AND THEIR SENSE OF RIGHT AND WRONG REVERSED, WARPING THE ENTIRE CITY.
A DRUG WAS PUT IN THE WATER. THIS SPECIAL DRUG CAN'T BE FILTERED OUT, AND THE CITY CONSTANTLY DRINKS IT.
THIS CITY GETS ALL ITS WATER FROM JUST ONE WATERWAY.
HUH?

WHATEVER, JUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE WATER SUPPLY!
I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I'M AN INVENTOR. I CAN MAKE MOST ANYTHING.
LIKE IT? I MADE IT MYSELF.

WELCOME TO MY PARTY ROOM.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT.
WHY NOT?!
BECAUSE I'M THE ONE WHO...
I MADE THE HALLUCI-NOGEN.

KRASSSH
SO IT WAS YOU. I HAD A FEELING YOU LOOKED SHADY.
WOOP.
SHUT UP! IT'S BETTER THAN LOOKIN' LIKE A JUNKIE...!
SWAY
NOW, NOW, DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER
YOU'RE NOT IN ANY POSITION TO TALK, AFTER ALL.
?!
THNK
YOU FELL INTO THE WATERWAY, DIDN'T YOU? I'M SURPRISED THE DRUG TOOK THIS LONG TO WORK.
AGH ?!
IT'S FINALLY AFFECTING YOUR LEGS

IT'S A SHAME YOU CAN'T DESTROY TOYS LIKE YOU CAME TO DO.
CAN'T STAND UP, CAN YOU? THE INITIAL EFFECT IS NUMBNESS. YOU'LL BE DOWN THERE FOR A WHILE.
ARE YOU...
AAA?
HOW THE FUCK DO YOU KNOW THAT...?
OH, YOU DON'T KNOW A THING
STORY?
YOU'D BEST GET A CLUE ABOUT HOW THE STORY GOES.
SMILE
NOW, WHAT COMES NEXT?
WHAM
THEN THE MARCH HARE
FIRST, THE CHESHIRE CAT
PLAYING CARD SOLDIERS PURSUING ALICE.
THE STORY HAS BEGUN BACK-WARDS. SPLENDID.
HUH?

HATTER...
HI, KAL. HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE.
"HATTER"? YOU KNOW THIS GUY?
FROM LONG AGO.

--!
I'M A DOLL.
DON'T SPOIL THIS PARTY, KAL.
I INVITED RED DOG HERE BECAUSE I WAS TOLD TO KILL HIM.
BY AAA?
HE SAID THE INITIAL EFFECT OF THE DRUG IN THE WATER IS NUMBNESS!
... WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
I'LL KICK YOUR ASS!
RAHHHH
YEAH, YOU GO ON AND TRY IT!
YOU CAN'T EVEN STAND UP KEEP QUIET
OHOH
--!
YOU'RE JUST LUCKY I HEARD THE WINDOW THAT BROKE EARLIER
WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO GET FROM THAT?
I BET YOU DON'T EVEN GET IT!
FINE, TELL ME MORE LATER
SHF

YOU'RE HURT AGAIN...
CHINK
HNN!
NO PAIN, NO GAIN.
WHEWWW
TAKE IT AND I'LL KILL YOU!
IT'S MY WOUND!
SHLP
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT CONVINCING YOURSELF OF THINGS.
SNAP
AHH, THIS SHOULD BE FUN.
WHO CARES ABOUT YOUR DRUG? I CAN STAND UP NO PROBLEM.
SHAKE
VWEEEEE

WHA?!
I DON'T IMAGINE YOU'VE MET. THIS IS THE CITY'S PREVIOUS MAYOR.
CHONG
DRIP
GAH
AH!
DRIP
THNK THNK
AND, HE'S MY CONTRACT PARTNER.
THNK THNK THNK
!
CHK
I'LL SHOW YOU MY POWER.
PLIP PLIP
RED DOG, WAIT!
BASTARD!

"Grand Guignol"
BWOP
GLORP
AGH?!

KRASH
SWAY
GUH!
!
GET UP!
WHAT THE HELL?!
THNK

HE'S A SHADOW PUPPET.
HE USES HIS PARTNER'S BLOOD AS A MEDIUM TO MELT INTO SHADOWS AND MANIPULATE THEM.
SHADOWS
YES. LIKE THIS, IN FACT.
ZHMMM
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
AND EVERYTHING HAS A SHADOW, HUH?
SHFF
TUNK

AGHH?!
SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PUT THE CORE IN THAT RABBIT.
WHAT?!
THAT'S RIGHT
I MADE HIM AN EXPERIMENTAL TOY, BUT HE DIED SO SOON SUCH A FAILURE.
ZHMMM
WOW, YOU CAN DEFEND AGAINST THIS. THAT'S MOST INTERES-TING.
I BET YOU'D MAKE A GOOD MOCK-TOY IF I PUT A CORE INSIDE YOU.
SON OF A...
ALL I DID WAS MAKE THAT RABBIT'S DREAM COME TRUE
WHY ARE YOU ANGRY?
IT WAS FOR THE GIRL HE LOVED. HOW GALLANT.

HE WAS LIKE A MARCH HARE, DANCING A COURTSHIP DANCE AS IF HE'D GONE MAD.
HE WAS COMICAL AND MOST INTERESTING RIGHT 'TIL THE END. SUCH A PITY.
BSSSHT
BSSSHT

BSSSHT
BSSSHT
BSSSHT
DOLF
WOLF
ANGER SIMPLIFIES YOUR ACTIONS. YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL.
!
WHOCK
--!
KRNCH
GRAB
AHH! WE MUST WATCH OUR HEADS, BECAUSE THEREIN LIE OUR CORES.

BLORP
KRAK
WHOCK
HYNH
THAT MIGHT'VE BEEN A LITTLE DANGER-OUS.
I'M SURPRISED YOU WOULD DO SOME-THING AS "USELESS" AS THIS.
SQUEEZE
I THOUGHT YOU ONLY DID WHAT YOU WERE FULLY CAPABLE OF.
SNAG

I THOUGHT ...
TMP
...I'D TRY BROAD-ENING MY HORIZONS A LITTLE.
WHACK
WHOCK
-- YOU'VE CHANGED, ALL RIGHT.
TUG
DAMN IT!
!

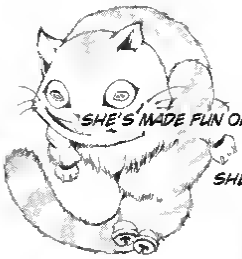
BYE-BYE.
RED DOG!

DO YOU KNOW THE STORY ABOUT WONDERLAND?

IT ALL BEGINS WITH A YOUNG GIRL'S CURIOSITY...

SHE CHASES A WHITE RABBIT, AND WHEN SHE EMERGES FROM A TUNNEL, THINGS ARE OH-SO-QUEER.

IT IS A LAND OF DREAMS.

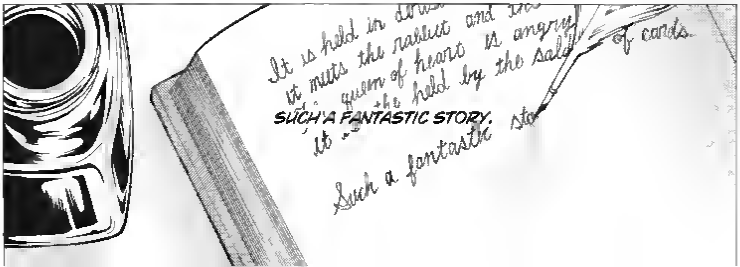


SHE'S MADE FUN OF BY A GRINNING CHESHIRE CAT...

SHE MEETS THE HARE AND THE HATTER AT A MAD PARTY...

THE QUEEN OF HEARTS GETS ANGRY AT HER...

AND PLAYING-CARD SOLDIERS CHASE AFTER HER.



SUCH A FANTASTIC STORY.

IF ONLY IT COULD [illegible] THE [illegible] HOUR WITH ITS FANTASY.

THE HATTER OF UPSIDE-DOWN CITY

card:10 逆園の帽子屋

RED DOG!
--HE'S ALIVE.
TWITCH
!
TWITCH
OOOSH
HHHH
GAH ...!
YOUR POWER'S A BIT PRO-BLEMATIC, SO I CAN'T LET YOU USE IT.
GLARE

HATTER.
OH, YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.
YOU SURE ARE A TOUGH ONE.
ARE WE REMINISCING?
BUT OF COURSE. I'M AN INVENTOR. I LOVE MY OWN WORKS.
YOU'VE ALWAYS HATED THE THINGS YOU MAKE GETTING BROKEN, HAVEN'T YOU?
AHAH, AND THEY'RE CERTAINLY FINE WORKS, TOO.
WHA?!
FWOOOSH
FINE AND FLAM-MABLE.

SNAP
ZHOM
SNAP
KH!
VPP
WHAT'VE YOU DONE...?!
YOU MEAN, WHAT YOU WERE SHOOTING BEFORE WAS...
CAN YOU HEAR ME, RED DOG?
JSSSSH
SHUT... UP..
YOU BRAGGED ABOUT NOT NEEDING MY POWER, BUT NOW LOOK AT YOU
I'M PRETTY SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE DOWN THERE.
HE'S CONSCIOUS...
TWITCH

CUT THROUGH THIS SHADOW I IMAGINE YOU CAN PULL THAT MUCH OFF.
ARE YOU GOING TO DIE...
CHOOSE.
IT'S YOUR MOVE.
OR ARE YOU GOING TO TRANSFER YOUR PAIN TO ME, KILL HATTER, AND SAVE THIS CITY?
"CHOOSE."
SHIT.
SHIT!
--!
SCRAPE

OG
HH
H
OGH
VRO
GH
HH
!
-- SHIT ...!
OGHHH ...!

SHLAP
JSSSH
"SCAPEGOAT"
"scape goat"
ZHOM
NO
VVP
YOU'RE TOO LATE.

THD
YOU'RE DEAD.
VLM

SHAP
THAT TRICK WON'T WORK ON ME TWICE!
KH!
POKE
SHAP
SHAP

"YOU HIDE A TREE IN A FOREST, AND YOU HIDE MOST ANYTHING IN RUBBLE."
"THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS, LOTS OF SHADOWS IN HERE. HE HAS THE ADVANTAGE."
"BE QUIET AND LISTEN. I HAVE AN IDEA."
TCH!

WHAM
"BREAK THROUGH THE CEILING."

"IT'S A CLASSIC TRICK."
"CONCEAL YOURSELF IN THE FALLING RUBBLE."
EH?
WH-WHAT?!
DOOM
DOOM
WHERE IS HE?!
THE RUBBLE'S KEEPING ME FROM USING MY SHADOWS HOW I WANT..!
SHOOM

KRASH
!
GLASS ?!
HA!
HE ACTUALLY FELL FOR IT.

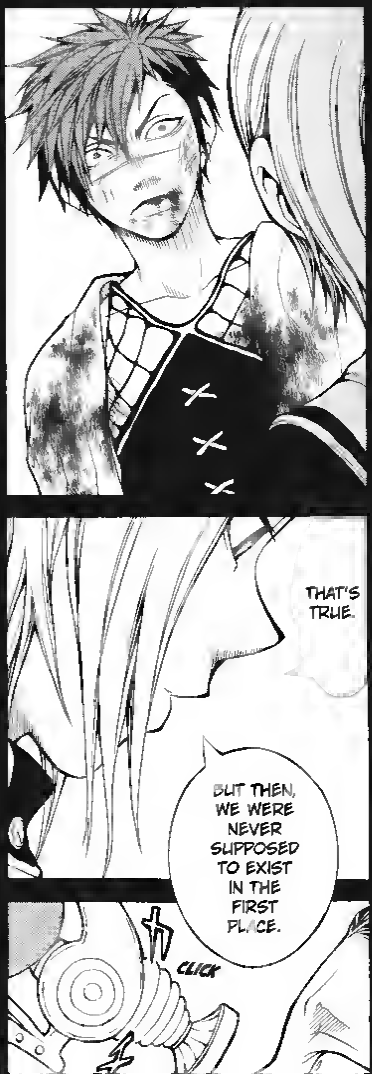
CHNK
VSSH
--!
KRK
KRK
KRK

AHG HH!
AGH!
NNG!
RAH HHH!
WHAM
OW ...!
OW ...!
CLUTCH
KAH!
--THAT HURT, FOOL.
BLOOD --NEED MORE BLOOD
SHFF.
WITH MORE BLOOD, MORE POWER, I COULD
...!
ZHM

...!
DREAM ON.
SWACK
Y-YOU, YOU'RE A BODYGUARD, RIGHT?
AGH?
WHY NOT COME OVER TO MY SIDE?
WE'LL PAY YOU FIVE TIMES, NO, TEN TIMES WHAT YOU'RE MAKING NOW...!
I'LL DO ANYTHING, AND I PROMISE NO MORE HARM WILL COME TO YOU.
I'LL GIVE YOU AS MUCH MONEY AND FOOD AS YOU WANT, SO--

WHOCK
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKIN' TO, YA GODDAMN JUNKIE?
WHAT'VE YOU GUYS DONE?
AND I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT I OWE HIM A TON OF FAVORS
I JUST DO THINGS THE WAY I WANT TO DO THEM.
THESE GUYS ARE WORKIN' HARD TO FIND YOU, AND NOBODY EVEN KNOWS IT.

I'M TAKIN' ALICE DOWN.
I'M ON CARDS' SIDE.
!
YOU CAN MOVE AROUND ALREADY?
YOU HEARD HIM. NOW, WHY DON'T YOU COOPERATE AND ANSWER MY QUESTIONS?
IT KEEPS US HAND-SETS, US TOYS, ALIVE
DON'T YOU SEE? IT'S OUR BASE UNIT, SO TO SPEAK.
HEHE HEH...
YOU STILL PLAN TO CRUSH ALICE.
ALICE'S CURRENT LOCATION.
WE HAVE A STRONG SUSPICION IT'S CURRENTLY IN CROSS OAK...
ASK HIM!


IF ALICE DIES, SO WILL YOU.
THAT'S TRUE.
BUT THEN, WE WERE NEVER SUPPOSED TO EXIST IN THE FIRST PLACE.
CLICK

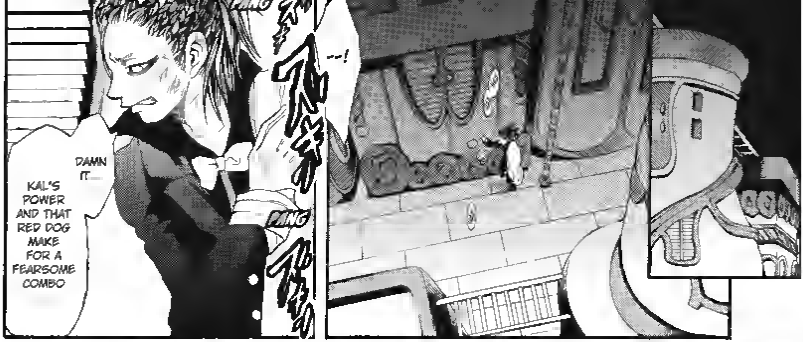
SO PLEASE, DIE ALONG WITH US.
"WHERE IS ALICE?" ...
THAT'S ODD. IT'S WHERE WE WERE BORN, YET YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
ARE YOU GOING TO KILL YOUR FATHER, YOU TRAITOR?
YOU THINK YOU'RE SO TOUGH
YOU THINK YOU'RE SO TOUGH AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF GOING OUT?! HE'S THE ONE WHO GAVE US LIFE!
...HEY
I CAN'T SEEM TO RECALL. THERE'S SOME KIND OF HAZE IN MY MIND.
AHH, RIGHT.
THAT WAS HOW YOUR CORE WAS PRO-GRAMMED.

WE'RE JUST "MAN-MADE REPLICAS."
EEEEEE
!
--AH!
EEEEEE

MY CORE...!
EEEEEEEEEE
WHAT THE...?!
MY HEAD FEELS HOT
IGH
AH!
WHAT THE HELL'D YOU DO?!
UGH!
I-I DON'T KNOW!
I JUST SAID WHAT HE TOLD ME TO SAY...
AGHH?!
DON'T YOU LIE TO ME!
IT-IT'S TRUE... WE DOLLS DON'T DISOBEY HIS ORDERS.
THAT'S HOW TOYS WORK WE'RE BUILT SO THAT HE MEANS EVERYTHING LIKE AN ABSOLUTE
KAL...KAL AND THE OTHERS ARE SPECIAL... THEY'RE CHOSEN.
CHOSEN...?
CHING

ZHUM
I... REMEM-BER...
!
ALICE IS IN CROSS OAK.
I REMEMBERED, LIKE THE HAZE IN MY MIND WAS SUDDENLY GONE!
WHAT HATTER SAID TRIGGERED MY CORE LIKE A KEYWORD.
CROSS OAK?
BUT WHY NOW ...?

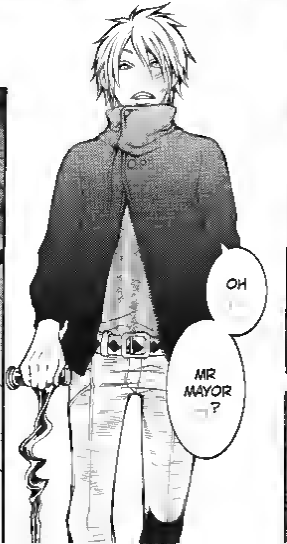
WHERE'S THE MAYOR?!
MURMUR
MURMUR
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...?
GRIN
NHAM
TROMP
MR. MAYOR!
WE HEARD SOME CRAZY, LOUD NOISE...!
TROMP
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
TROMP
WHO'RE YOU GUYS?!
AGH!
HE GOT AWAY!
THIS ISN'T GOOD
ZHULB
WE'D BETTER RUN, TOO.
WHAT, AGAIN?!
CRASSSH
FOLLOW THEM!!
THEY GOT AWAY!
RAHHHH!..
AGHH?!


KAL'S POWER AND THAT RED DOG MAKE FOR A FEARSOME COMBO
DAMN IT...
---!
PING

I FAILED TO KILL THE RED DOG BUT I CARRIED OUT THE REST OF MY ORDERS
FWF
EITHER WAY, HE LEFT THIS CITY IN MY HANDS I CAN'T JUST LEAVE NOW

AHH... I SUPPOSE I'LL REMAKE IT FROM SCRATCH
THIS PLACE WAS JUST THE WAY I LIKED IT, TOO

THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE HERE COULD YOU LEND A HAND ? I'VE HAD A ROUGH NIGHT...
Y-YEAH...


OH...
MR MAYOR ?

MAYBE ...HE'LL EVEN PRAISE ME.

WHO'S THERE ?!

SHUNK
KSSH
AH ...?
ZZZT
IT WAS MOST ENTER-TAINING
WELL DONE I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU FOR SOME TIME
GA HH
AHH H!
AH
AH ... AH
HMMM
HMMMM
Y...
YOU'RE ...!

YOUR TIME HAS COME TO AN END.
KISH
NG...!
I-I DID... YOUR FOR... GIVE-NESS!
I SWEAR... NEXT TIME, I'LL...!
KISH
HM? AHH.
YOU MEAN ABOUT THE RED DOG? THAT DOESN'T REALLY BOTHER ME.
ALL YOU NEEDED TO DO WAS MEET HIM HERE IN THIS CITY.

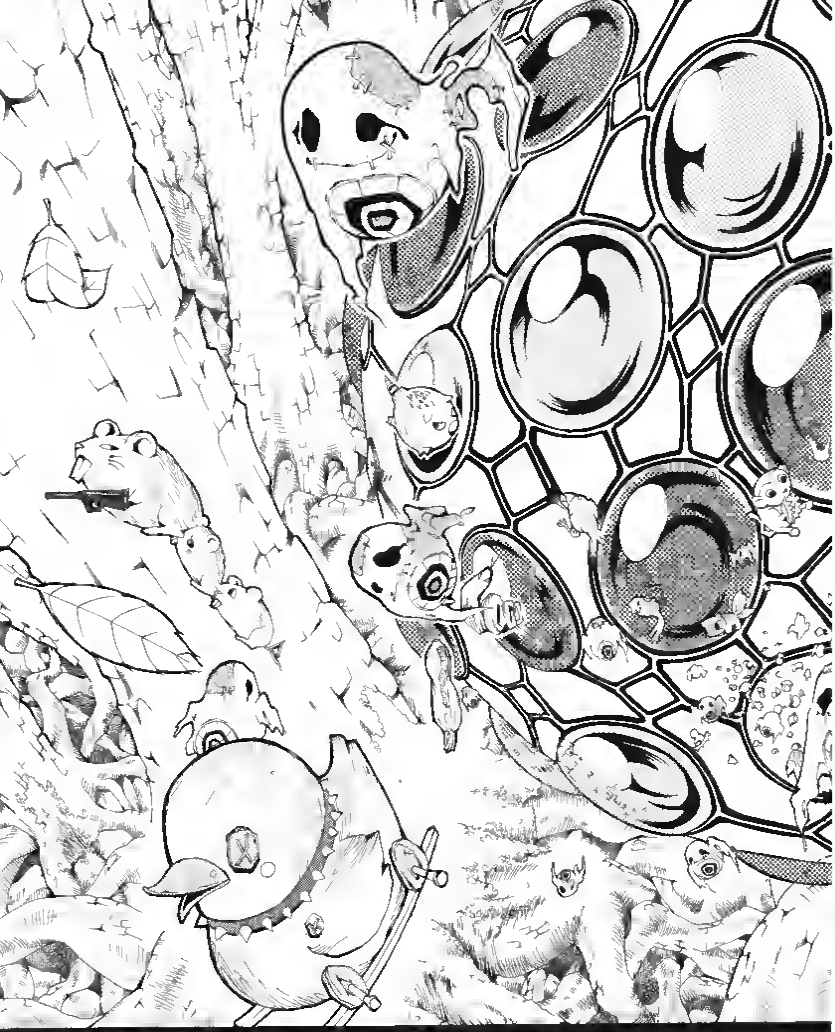
KRRRSH
NO ! I DID AS YOU SAID! I REMADE THE RABBIT ..AND THIS CITY...!
MHM, THANKS YOU WERE QUITE EXCEL-LENT.
I'M ALSO HAPPY FOR ALL YOUR ADORA-TION.
ALTHOUGH I'M NOT TOO SURE ABOUT YOU IMITATING MY LOOK.
HEH
HEH
KRRRRRSH
BUT I HAVE NO USE FOR YOU NOW THAT YOUR EPISODE IS COMPLETE.
THEN
THEN I WAS
..ONLY EVER A WAY FOR YOU TO KILL TIME --?
KRIIING
SHROK
HEH!
KILL TIME ...? OF COURSE NOT.
HEH
THK

WHETHER THAT WAS THE BEGINNING OR THE END...

SNAPT

...THE COUNTDOWN HAD BEGUN.

I'LL GET TO SEE YOU SOON, ALICE.



THE VIRTUAL DREAM COMES TO LIFE.

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HOLD UP!
This is the back of the book! Please start the book from the other side...
塩
HELLO MY NAME IS SHIO
I'm TAMAGO!
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NATIVE MANGA
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Kai and Manji are thrown for a loop in a city where down is up, up is down and a grisly murder inspires hysterical laughter! The partners will need to put their differences aside and follow a bloodthirsty rabbit's trail (and tail) if they hope to find the mad, mad man who can help them solve a series of sinister riddles. Will CARDS finally take down AAA and Alice...or is it all an illusion?

Replica pits horrific toys against fearless fighters who will stop at nothing to put evil playthings away for good! Kai, Manji and their motley crew of toughs know that it takes more than extraordinary powers to conquer the ultimate enemy. But in their darkest hour, will they know the difference between friend and foe?

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